

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EAE-00 /078 W
-----033368 221032Z /15

O 220918Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 5283

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6152

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, US

SUBJECT: SCM: ROK SUGGESTED DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS

REF: STATE 170146

SUMMARY: MOFA ASKS FOR LETTER EXCHANGE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR
AND FORNMIN WHICH WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS COULD BE REDUCED
TO INNOCUOUS CONFIRMATION OF COMMUNIQUE. WE SEE NO REAL
NEED FOR IT EXCEPT THAT IT WOULD HELP MOFA'S POSITION.
END SUMMARY

1. POLCOUNS PRESENTED SCM DRAFT COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED REFTTEL
TO AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG JULY 22. AFTER
READING THROUGH IT, PAK NODDED, NOTING THAT IT CONTAINED
MOST OF POINTS ROKS WISHED INCLUDED, ALTHOUGH HE REMARKED
ON ABSENCE ANY NUCLEAR OR LOGISTICS SUPPORT PASSAGES. PAK
THEN GAVE POLCOUNS A DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS TO BE MADE AT
CLOSE OF SCM BY THE AMBASSADOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER. IN SO
DOING, PAK EMPHASIZED THAT LETTER EXCHANGE, REPEATED BELOW,
WAS "SUGGESTION ONLY." BUT HE URGED THAT WE MAKE
THIS EXCHANGE; IT WOULD HELP THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, HE SAID.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

EXCELLENCY: IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FOLLOWING
THE VISIT TO KOREA IN MAY, 1977 BY UNDER SECRETARY PHILIP
HABIB AND GENERAL BROWN, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF
STAFF, HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED THE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS

ON VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY COMPENSATORY MEASURES RELATING TO THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA, IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSE COOPERATION.

(PARA) IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE THE HONOR, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS ITS BASIC POSITION IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES WILL BE CAREFULLY PHASED AND CARRIED OUT IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND IN A WAY WHICH WILL NEITHER UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA NOR INDUCE MISCALCULATIONS ON THE PART OF COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA. THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL CAREFULLY REASSESS THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND OTHER RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA BEFORE UNDERTAKING EACH PHASE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA.

(2) THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND FULFILL ITS SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ROK-US MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, AND IN CASE OF A LARGE-SCALE INVASION FROM NORTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES WILL PROVIDE THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH IMMEDIATE

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AND EFFECTIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, EMPLOYING ALL AVAILABLE MEANS INCLUDING TACTICAL NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IF NECESSARY.

(3) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, WILL MAKE POSITIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY COMPENSATORY MEASURES, AND THESE MEASURES WILL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF FINAL PHASE OF THE WITHDRAWALS.

(4) THE UNITED STATES WILL RENDER POSITIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE ROK FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (FIP) AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEFENSE INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AS AGREED UPON AT THE 10TH ANNUAL ROK-US SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD IN SEOUL ON JULY 25 AND 26, 1977.

(5) THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND SHALL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AND THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT WILL BE WORKED OUT. THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO ASSUME ITS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE ARMISTICE REGIME AND TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES INCLUDING THE EXERCISE OF VETO POWER IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN ATTEMPT ICUTHE FUTURE TO DISSOLVE THE UNITED NATIONS

COMMAND OR TO ABROGATE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ITSELF.

(6) THE UNITED STATES WILL, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, CONTINUE ITS DIPLOMATIC ENDEAVOURS TO CONSOLIDATE DURABLE PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND WILL KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS OF ITS CONTACTS WITH PRC AND USSR ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE KOREAN QUESTION.

(7) THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(PARA) ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
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CONSIDERATION. (SIGNED) RICHARD L. SNEIDER, AMBASSADOR

END TEXT

3. BEGIN TEXT

EXCELLENCY: I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH APPRECIATION THE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED JULY 25, 1977, REAFFIRMING THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA.

(PARA) AS I FEEL THAT THE MEASURES REITERATED IN YOUR NOTE ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFULLY CARRYING OUT THE PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND FORCES AND FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, IT IS FORTUNATE THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHARE THE SAME POSITION ON THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS, REPRESENTING THE STRONG SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

(PARA) I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO FURTHER PROMOTE THE TRADITIONAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ALSO TO BRING ABOUT DURABLE PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

(PARA) ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
CONSIDERATION. (SIGNED) TONG JIN PARK, MINISTER END TEXT

4. COMMENT: WE SEE NO REAL NEED FOR PROPOSED EXCHANGE AND CONVERSATION WITH TWO BLUE HOUSE OFFICIALS JULY 22 SUPPORTS OUR VIEW THAT BLUE HOUSE NOT GIVING IT ANY PARTICULAR BLESSING. ON OTHER HAND, WITH SOME OBVIOUS EXCISES AND MODIFICA-
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TIONS, WHICH WE SURE MOFA COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE, PROPOSED
LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR COULD BE BROUGHT INTO LINE WITH COMMUNIQUE
SO THAT IT WOULD REPRESENT NO NEW DEPARTURES AND COMPRISE
INNOCUOUS DOCUMENT. MOREOVER, EXCHANGE WOULD UNDOBUTEDLY
BE GRATIFYING TO FOREIGN MINISTER PAK AND WOULD HELP OUR
RELATIONSHIP THERE.

5. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXPENDITURES, MILITARY PLANS, TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770728/aaaaaygh.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79b95b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1774659
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCM: ROK SUGGESTED DRAFT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
TAGS: MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79b95b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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